

REMARKS

The present application has been amended in response to the Examiner's Office Action to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims 1-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,347,979 (Drill) in view of United States Patent No. 5,902,173 (Tanaka). Each of the independent claims have been amended to specifically claim that the peripheral channel is inside the wear ring. This is neither claimed nor suggested by the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn.

For example, Drill '979 discloses slurry dispense holes which extend through the wear ring, and Tanaka '173 discloses a groove formed on (as opposed to inside) the wafer holder unit and a plurality of holes for dispensing the slurry. The independent claims of the present application specifically claim structure which is neither disclosed nor suggested by Drill or Tanaka: a peripheral channel inside the wear ring, an inlet in communication with the channel which is inside the wear ring, and a plurality of outlets which are in communication with the peripheral channel which is inside the wear ring. Neither Drill nor Tanaka discloses injecting slurry into an inlet such that the slurry goes into a peripheral channel which is located inside the wear ring.

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Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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